

in the domestic Tariff Area (DTA) for the purpose of meeting export obligations.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Four telecom product specific SEZs, promoted by private sector, have been targeted to be set up by 2007. The first one to start production in Chennai was Nokia, followed by Flextronics. The other two SEZs are expected to commence operation in the year 2007. SEZs which have commenced operation have so far provided direct employment to about 4,000 persons. It is estimated that all the four SEZs would provide direct employment to about 25,000 people in the final phase. Manufacturing capacities in the aforesaid SEZs are being created to meet domestic and exports demand in the region. It will also create a better competitive environment.

World class R&D centres under PPP

898. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre for Development of Telematics (DoT) has decided to open up/to team up with an international hub for Research and Development (R&D) in telecommunications, and to set up two world class R&D centres, under Public Private Partnership (PPP);

(b) if so, the details of the R&D Centres to be opened, and their objectives; and

(c) the steps so far taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. There is no decision by Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) to open up/to team up with an international hub for Research and Development (R&D) in Telecommunications and to set up two world class R&D centers under Public Private Partnership (PPP) at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.